

The rewritten clean versions of all the pending claims are provided below. Attached at the end of this paper is an Appendix providing an indication of the changes relative to the prior version of the claims, as now required by Rule 121(c).

1. A lawn edging strip adapted for insertion into the ground, comprising:
a flexible body;
a tongue connector located proximate a first end of the flexible body; and
a pocket connector located proximate a second end of the flexible body, the pocket connector comprising a lock feature and a slot feature;
the slot feature sized to receive a tongue connector of another lawn edging strip, and
the size and shape of the lock feature of the pocket connector being configured to engage the tongue connector and to prevent disengagement in a vertical direction after connection with the other lawn edging strip such that disengaging the lawn edging strip from the other lawn edging strip is hindered in a vertical direction as compared to the force necessary to engage the lawn edging strip with the other lawn edging strip.
2. The lawn edging strip of Claim 1, wherein the pocket connector further comprises a guide feature to guide the tongue connector of another lawn edging strip towards the lock feature and into engagement with the slot feature.
3. The lawn edging strip of Claim 2, wherein the pocket connector further comprises:
a flap extending from the flexible body of the lawn edging strip; and
a notch formed in the flap, the notch defined by the guide feature, the lock feature and the slot feature.
4. The lawn edging strip of Claim 3, wherein:
the guide feature comprises a generally curved surface extending from a top of the notch to a midpoint of the notch;

the lock feature comprises a lip positioned at an end of the guide feature and narrowing the notch to a width smaller than the tongue connector; and
the slot feature is sized to match a geometry of the tongue connector.

5. The lawn edging strip of Claim 4, wherein the tongue connector comprises a generally rectangular protrusion, and the slot feature comprises a generally rectangular opening for receiving the protrusion.

6. The lawn edging strip of Claim 1, wherein the lawn edging strip further comprises:
an optional end located between the first end and the second end; and
a second tongue connector located proximate to the optional end;
wherein the lawn edging strip can be shortened to the optional end and still be connected to another lawn edging strip.

7. The lawn edging strip of Claim 1, wherein the tongue connector and the pocket connector are oriented such that the tongue connector can be inserted into the pocket connector in a direction perpendicular to a length of the lawn edging strip.

8. The lawn edging strip of Claim 1, wherein the flexible body further comprises:
a bottom edge configured to allow forced insertion of the bottom edge into the ground;
and
a top edge configured to withstand hammering to provide force for insertion.

9. The lawn edging strip of Claim 8, wherein the top edge extends over the tongue connector and does not extend over the pocket connector.


10. A method of providing a lawn edging strip such that two of the lawn edging strips may be engaged to form a longer continuous lawn edging structure, comprising:
providing a flexible body;
forming a tongue connector at a first end of the flexible body;

forming a pocket connector at a second end of the flexible body, wherein the tongue connector and the pocket connector are configured to engage one another when two of the flexible bodies are placed end to end for engagement;

configuring the first end and second end in a manner such that one of the flexible body may be engaged with another similar flexible body in a manner such that the one flexible body may be inserted into the ground prior to the another flexible body engaging the one flexible body; and

providing a locking mechanism on the flexible body that hinders the disengagement of two engaged flexible bodies in a vertical direction such that disengaging the two engaged flexible bodies is hindered in a vertical direction as compared to the force necessary to engage the lawn edging strip with the other lawn edging strip.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the locking mechanism is formed on the second end of the flexible body.

 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the pocket connector comprises a cavity for receiving the tongue connector.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the pocket connector further comprises a locking mechanism.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the pocket connector further comprises a guide.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a lip sized to engage a protrusion of the tongue connector.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein at least a portion of the first end of the flexible body extends over the tongue connector so that when two of the flexible bodies are placed end to end for engagement a continuous structural appearance is formed between the two flexible bodies.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the at least a portion of the first end comprises a top of the flexible body.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the locking mechanism is formed on the second end of the flexible body.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the at least a portion of the first end comprises an ornamental feature of the flexible body.

20. The method of claim 10 wherein at least one optional second end location is provided within the flexible body to selectively form the second end at a varying distance from the first end.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending, including independent claims 1 and 10. Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102 in light of Bradley. Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 in light of Bradley in view of Smith. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103 in light of Bradley in view of Northrop. Claims 10-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 in light Northrop. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 103 in light Northrop in view of Bradley.

It is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1 and 10 each contain elements not taught or suggested in the cited references either singularly or in combination.

With regard to claim 1 it is noted that the claim includes a pocket connector and the pocket connector comprises a lock feature. Moreover, "the size and shape of the lock feature of the pocket connector being configured to engage the tongue connector and to prevent